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SUBJECT: JULY 31 MFA PRESS BRIEFING: Bush Visit, Bush Meeting with Dissidents, Internet Restrictions, Human Rights

11. Key points at the July 31 MFA Press Briefing:

- President Bush will meet with Premier Wen Jiabao, President Hu Jintao, and Vice-President Xi Jinping during the Olympics to hold discussions to develop bilateral ties, Liu said. They will discuss "many different issues" of mutual interest.
- President Bush's meeting with five Chinese dissidents was gross interference in China's internal affairs.
- China is determined to "implement regulations effectively" on Internet censorship during the Olympics.
- U.S. Senator Brownback's statement that Chinese hotels are being forced to monitor guests' activities is an "unfair accusation."
- Both sides need to reflect on a recent conflict between Chinese police and Hong Kong journalists attempting to report on scuffles in an Olympics ticket line. "If China needs to adjust, we will," the Spokesman said.
- China's constitution guarantees citizens freedom of speech and China is a country with the rule of law.
- China "would be happy" to meet with French President Sarkozy before the Olympics Opening Ceremony, but the specifics are still being discussed.
- China welcomes foreign leaders to the Olympics but hopes they will follow the Olympic Charter and not take actions to damage bilateral relations.
- The spokesperson had not heard reports of the confiscation of Russian tourists' passports in Hainan, but doubted the reports were true.
- VISITS: One hundred middle and primary school students from earthquake-stricken Wenchuan, Sichuan will visit Hungary and Bulgaria August 24-25 "to convalesce." U.S. North Korea expert Sung Kim will arrive in China July 31 to meet Chinese leaders to exchange views on the Six-Party Talks.

Bush Visit

12. President Bush will meet with Premier Wen Jiabao, President Hu Jintao, and Vice-President Xi Jinping during the Olympics to hold discussions to develop bilateral ties, MFA spokesman Liu Jianchao said at the regular biweekly MFA press conference July 31. Bush and Hu will discuss "many different issues" of mutual interest. Over the eight years of the Bush presidency there have been many advances in bilateral relations, including solid progress in politics, economics, trade, social and cultural exchanges, counterterrorism,

the environment and law enforcement cooperation.

Bush Meeting with Dissidents

13. President Bush's meeting with five Chinese dissidents was a gross interference in China's internal affairs and provided encouragement to anti-China forces, Liu said. The people with whom Bush met are anti-China splittists seeking to undermine national security under the guise of human rights and religion, and China is strongly opposed to Bush's meeting with them, he added.

Internet Censorship

14. China is "determined to implement regulations effectively" on Internet censorship, Liu said in response to questions on Internet access for journalists at the Olympic Press Center. Liu refused to answer any follow up questions on the subject and referred several questioners to the IOC.

Brownback Comments on Hotel Surveillance

15. U.S. Senator Brownback's statement that hotels in China are being forced to monitor their guests is an "unfair accusation," Liu said. China respects and guarantees privacy and has taken no special arrangements for the Olympics "beyond normal international security regulations."

Constitutional Guarantees of Freedom of Speech

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16. Asked a question about Chinese citizens not being allowed to meet with foreign media during the Olympics, Liu said that China's constitution guarantees its citizens freedom of speech, and that he had not heard any reports of Chinese citizens being denied this right.

Conflicts with Journalists

17. Asked about a conflict between Chinese police and Hong Kong journalists who attempted to report on scuffles that took place during Olympic ticket sales, Liu said that "the incident has its causes," and that both sides should reflect on the relevant issues. "If China needs to adjust, we will," he said. Liu added that foreign journalists must follow the instructions of the police in China. Asked about South Korean journalists who evaded security to film the rehearsal of the Opening Ceremonies, Liu said that China has taken appropriate measures for security. "A successful Olympic Games must be secure," he said, and expressed hope that all parties would support this principle.

Ni Yulan Trial

18. Liu said he had not heard of the trial of Ni Yulan, a Chinese lawyer who had assisted people who had been evicted. He noted that China is a country with the rule of law, and said that the trial will take place in accordance with the law. He noted that the separation of sports and politics is in accord with the spirit of the Olympic Games.

Sarkozy Meeting

19. Asked whether President Hu Jintao will meet French President Nicolas Sarkozy before the Olympic Opening Ceremony, Liu responded that China "would be happy to meet with him," but that the specifics are still under discussion.

Foreign Leaders at Olympics

¶10. Asked to comment on reports of an "unnamed leader" who had worn a Tibetan flag pin (whom the journalist assumed was the President of the Czech Republic), Liu said China follows this information closely. China welcomes world leaders to come to the Olympics, but hopes that leaders will follow the Olympic charter and not take any actions to damage bilateral relations. Asked how many leaders are coming to the Olympics, Liu said the number is changing but between 80 and 90 are expected.

New U.S. Embassy

¶11. China congratulates the United States on the construction of its new Embassy, Liu said. He noted that China just completed its own new Embassy in Washington, DC. The new buildings symbolize the expansion of bilateral relations.

Russian Passport Confiscation?

¶12. Asked a question about Russian tourists having their passports confiscated on Hainan Island to prevent them from traveling around China because of Olympics security, Liu said that he had not heard the reports, but doubted the information was true. He added that China welcomes foreign tourists, including Russians, and that the Provincial Government of Hainan facilitates many tourists.

No Comment on New Zealand PM Remarks on Death Penalty

¶13. The spokesperson did not respond to a question about reports of a New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark's statement that she "doesn't want any executions anywhere," and her signing of an Amnesty International petition calling for human rights in China.

Hu to Meet Journalists

¶14. President Hu is scheduled to meet with journalists August 1 in advance of the Olympics, Liu said.

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Visit: Earthquake Children; Sung Kim

¶15. VISITS: One hundred middle and primary school students from the earthquake-stricken city of Wenchuan, Sichuan will visit Hungary and Bulgaria August 24-25 "to convalesce." Hungary and Bulgaria were among the first nations to establish diplomatic relations with China and this activity shows the friendship that exists between them and China, Liu said. Separately, Liu announced that U.S. "expert" Sung Kim will arrive in China today to exchange views with Chinese officials on the Six Party Talks.

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